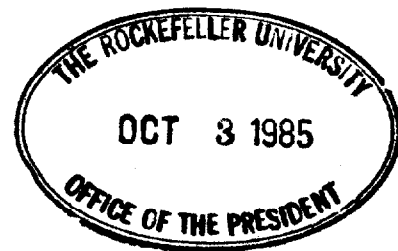
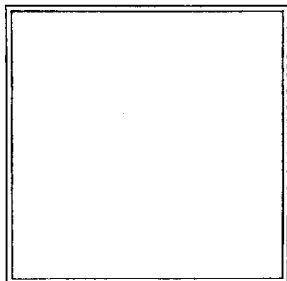


*Ed Wood 11/11/85 mg*



September 30, 1985

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
The Rockefeller University  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Joshua:

I have your note of September 6th and just got back from a trip to Europe so I have been delayed in answering. You asked if I ever recall whether Ed ever mentioned Garrod's work in the 30s. As far as I can remember, the subject never came up between Ed and I while I was there in 1935-1936. I doubt at that time that Ed had any special interest in genetics although he might have had unbeknown to me. His interests at that time were mostly in growth factors for bacteria. There is one part of your description of Ed's work which I am quite sure is incorrect. Ed received his Ph.D. degree in 1934 and I am quite sure his thesis must have been completed before I came to Wisconsin. It was through collaborative work that we did together while I was in Wisconsin that the requirement for thiamin by the propionic acid bacteria was discovered. When I came to Wisconsin, I am quite sure Ed had not done any work with the propionic acid bacteria. I brought these organisms with me because of studies we had been doing on CO<sub>2</sub> fixation. Ed was a tremendous guy to collaborate with and we had lots of interesting experiences. One I particularly remember was that we found a growth factor that was extracted out of corn which stimulated the growth of the propionic acid bacteria. We did work up a bushel of corn and purified the factor and finally got it to a purity where we could see nothing in the bottom of the beaker when the solution was evaporated. Yet it was very, very effective as a growth factor. This no doubt was biotin, which later was shown to be required by these bacteria. This experience was very instrumental in Tatum's decision to go and work with Kogl (sorry for the error in spelling). Ed realized that he needed to know much more about microchemistry if he was to continue his studies on growth factors.

Ed hated to wash dishes. As a consequence, we had a gentleman's agreement that he would kthe notebooks up to date while I cleaned up the lab. I learned a great deal from Ed about his philosophy of science and also made the acquaintance of Wolley, Marv Johnson, Perry Wilson and Peterson while at Wisconsin.

I enjoyed reading your article on Ed Tatum and look forward to the completed draft.

Sincerely yours,

  
HARLAND G. WOOD

HGW:ec